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BATMAN

THE NEW ADVENTURES

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APARO & DE CARLO

WHITE GOLD AND TRUTH

ONE YEAR AGO.

NO MATTER WHAT I SAY, ROBIN LIKES TO GO IT ON HIS OWN WHENEVER HE GETS THE CHANCE.

THE TROUBLE IS THAT HE'S NOWHERE NEAR AS GOOD AS HE THINKS HE IS.

HE'S NEW AT THIS DANGEROUS GAME. THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF TRICKS HE'S YET TO LEARN.

THAT'S HOW HE ENDED UP IN THAT MESS LAST NIGHT.

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HE'D TRAILED A DEALER
TO THE COKE LAB.

ROBIN WAS SO PLEASED WITH HIS
DISCOVERY THAT HE GOT CARELESS.

HE SHOULD HAVE
KNOWN A SETUP
LIKE THAT WOULD
HAVE GUARDS
POSTED OUTSIDE.

ESPECIALLY ON
THE ROOF.

SLOPPY.

VERY SLOPPY.

IN THIS BUSINESS, YOU DON'T
USUALLY LIVE LONG ENOUGH
TO REALIZE YOUR MISTAKES.

THE PENALTIES FOR
FOULING UP ARE HIGH...

THAT'S WHY ONLY THE
BEST SURVIVE.

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO
KEEP ROBIN ALIVE
LONG ENOUGH TO
BECOME ONE OF
THOSE CHOSEN FEW!

BUT HE DOESN'T MAKE
IT VERY EASY.

WHUMP

FORTUNATELY, ROBIN WASN'T
THE ONLY ONE TRACKING DOWN
THE LOCATION OF THAT LAB.

OH MAN!
THE KID'S NOT
ALONE!

IT'S GOT
TO BE...

SAY
WHAT?!



MY NAME'S
NIGHTWING!

I MAY NOT BE
THE GENT YOU WERE
EXPECTING, BUT LET
ME ASSURE YOU...

...LIKE HIM, I'M
THE STUFF OF
NIGHTMARES.



SO
DON'T GET
STUPID!

IF YOU PLAY
IT COOL, YOU MAY
WALK AWAY FROM
THIS WITH ALL
YOUR TEETH.

DON'T GET TOUGH
WITH US, DUDE!

WE AIN'T THE ONE
GOT CAUGHT TRES-
PASSING.

WHAT?!

WHAT ARE YOU
TRYING TO PULL?

ANY FOOL CAN SEE
THAT THIS IS A COCAINE
PROCESSING LAB!

OH YEAH?
MIND
TELLING
ME WHERE
THE BLOW
IS?

I BELIEVE MY YOUNG
FRIEND HAS MADE
A TERRIBLE
MISTAKE.

BUT... BUT...

THIS
SHOULD MORE THAN
COVER THE DAMAGES.
WE'LL BE GOING NOW.
ANY OBJECTIONS?

I DIDN'T
THINK
SO.

WE CAN'T...
I MEAN...

DON'T
SAY ANOTHER
WORD.

NOW WHAT WAS
ALL THAT ABOUT,
PAL?

JUST
TRYING TO
SAVE YOU
FROM MAKING
A BIG
MISTAKE,
SHORTY.

MISTAKE?!

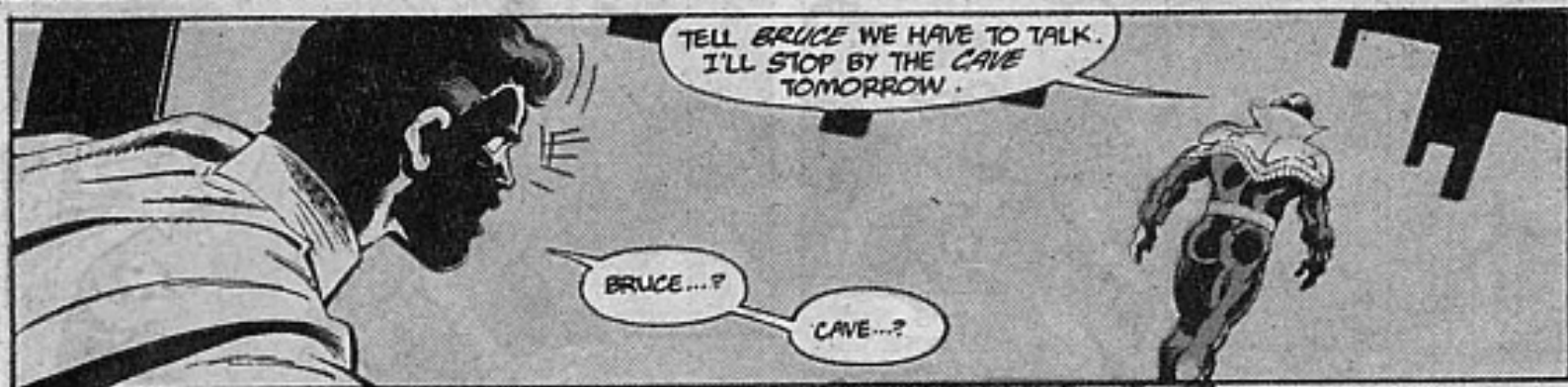
YOU CAN'T BUST
ANYONE FOR
POSSESSION IF
THERE'S NO
DOPE TO BE
FOUND.

WE DIDN'T
EVEN SEARCH
THE PLACE!
HOW DO YOU
KNOW THEY
DON'T HAVE
A STASH IN
THERE?

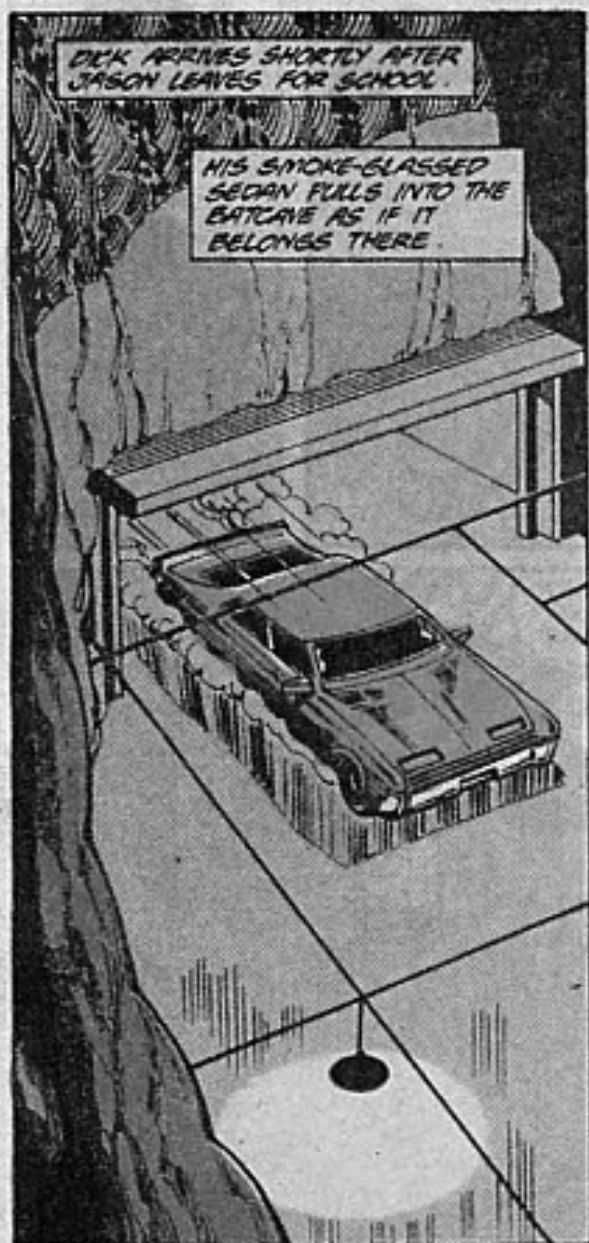
BECAUSE YOU CAN SMELL
AN ACTIVE PROCESSING
LAB A MILE OFF.

THOSE GUYS ARE
WAITING FOR THE
RAW MATERIAL,
THE UNREFINED
COCA PASTES.

MY SOURCES
TELL ME THAT'S NOT
DUE TO ARRIVE UNTIL
TOMORROW NIGHT.







DICK ARRIVES SHORTLY AFTER
JASON LEAVES FOR SCHOOL.

HIS SMOKE-GLASSED
SEDAN PULLS INTO THE
BATCAVE AS IF IT
BELONGS THERE.



I FIND THAT ANNOYING.

GOOD TO
SEE YOU AGAIN,
ALFRED.

HOW YOU
DOING?

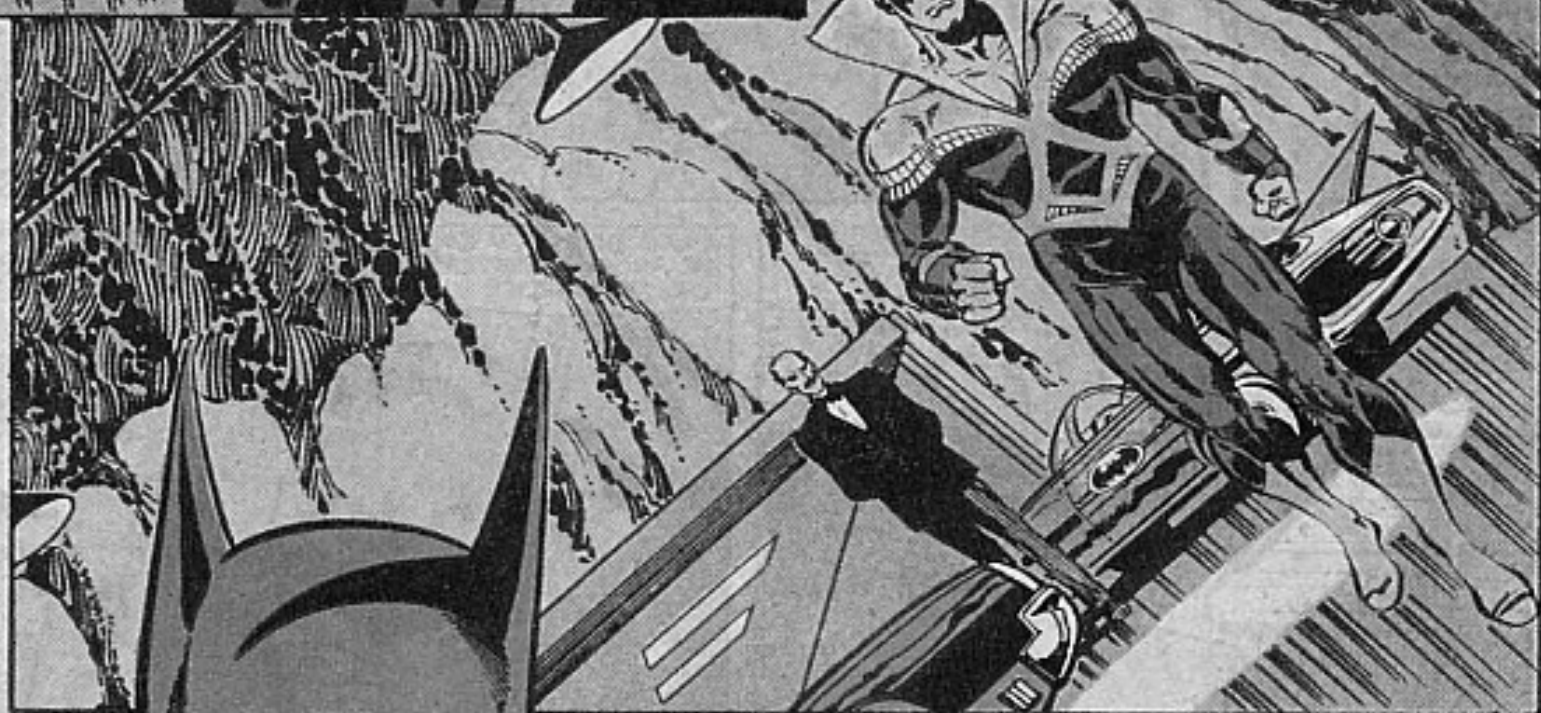
AS WELL AS
CAN BE EXPECTED,
MASTER DICK.

HE'S WAITING
FOR YOU IN THE
TROPHY ROOM.

OF
COURSE.

DON'T BE TOO HARD ON
HIM, MASTER DICK.

HE'S ONLY
HUMAN.



HI, BRUCE.

HELLO,
NIGHTWING.

WHAT DO
YOU WANT?



"BATMAN AND ROBIN. I WAS AT YOUR SIDE FOR SIX LONG YEARS, BRUCE! THE TWO OF US BECAME LEGENDS!"

"YOU AND I FOUGHT CRIME OUT ON THOSE STREETS TOGETHER. WE SHED OUR BLOOD TOGETHER."

"THIS CITY THREW THE WORST IT HAD AT US AND WE FOUGHT IT OFF SIDE BY SIDE!"

"HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN HOW IT WAS? WASN'T I ALWAYS THERE FOR YOU?"

"WE TOOK ON EVERY CROOK AND CRAZY THAT CAME OUR WAY AND WE BEAT THEM!"

"I'VE BEAT THEM ALL UNTIL THAT WRETCHED DAY, THE DAY I GOT CARELESS."

"THE JOKER GOT OFF A LUCKY SHOT."

"I SHOULD HAVE SEEN IT COMING."

"BUT I DIDN'T."

"I TOOK THE BULLET JUST BELOW THE RIGHT SHOULDER."

"OF COURSE, YOU FREAKED OUT OVER THE INCIDENT."

"YOU BLAMED YOURSELF FOR MY INJURY. DIDN'T MATTER TO YOU THAT IT WAS THE JOKER WHO PULLED THE TRIGGER."



"SO WHILE I WAS STILL LAID UP IN BED, YOU DROPPED THE BAD NEWS ON ME. NO IFS, ANDS, OR BUTS..."

"I WASN'T TO PLAY ROBIN ANYMORE. YOU COULDN'T CONTINUE TO ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR A CHILD FIGHTING CRIME."



"FOR SIX YEARS YOU TRAINED ME TO BE A CRIME-FIGHTER, THEN DENIED ME THAT ROLE."

"OF COURSE, YOU ASSURED ME THAT IT WAS FOR MY OWN GOOD."



"I LAY THERE WITH A BANDAGED SHOULDER AND MY LIFE IN RUINS."

"YOU SMILED, KICKED A GREAT BIG HOLE IN MY LIFE, THEN WALKED OUT OF THE ROOM."



"I DIDN'T SEE WHAT OPTION I HAD, OTHER THAN TO SPLIT."

"ALFRED TRIED TO TALK ME OUT OF IT."



"IT WAS ALFRED WHO FORCED MONEY ON ME SO I'D HAVE SOMETHING TO LIVE ON..."



"YOU COULDN'T EVEN BE BOTHERED TO SAY GOOD-BYE."



"I WAS INVOLVED WITH A CASE. I DIDN'T..."

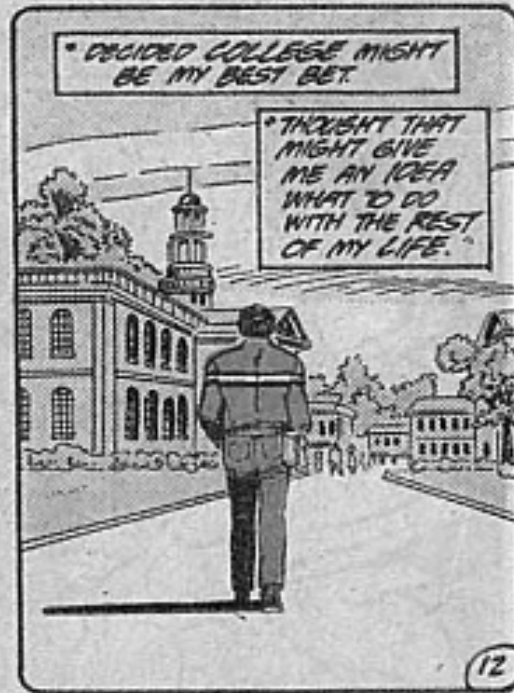
"SURE, BRUCE. WHATEVER YOU SAY."



"HAVE YOU ANY INTEREST IN WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING SINCE I LEFT HERE?"

"UH... WELL..."

"I'LL TELL YOU ANYHOW."



"DECIDED COLLEGE MIGHT BE MY BEST BET."

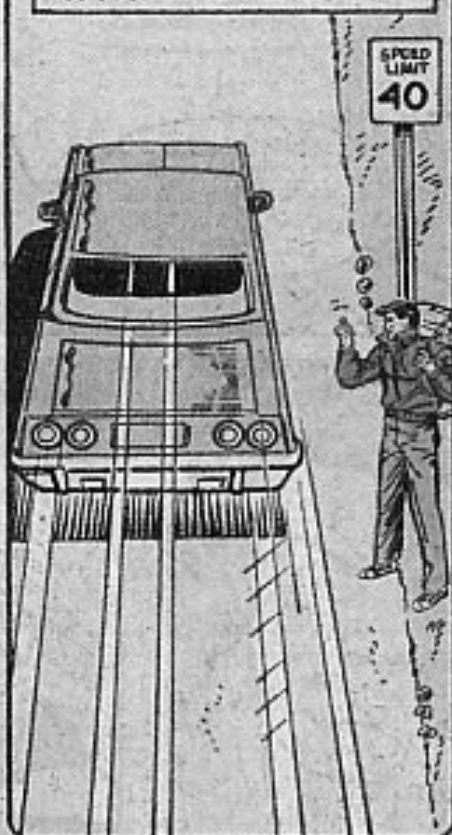
"THOUGHT THAT MIGHT GIVE ME AN IDEA WHAT TO DO WITH THE REST OF MY LIFE."

"FOR SOME REASON I FOUND IT HARD TO CONCENTRATE, THOUGH."



"WHEN THE SEMESTER ENDED, THE SCHOOL ASKED ME TO NOT COME BACK."

"SO I BUMPTED AROUND THE COUNTRY FOR AWHILE, HAD A FEW ADVENTURES."



"I EVENTUALLY ENDED UP SPENDING A LOT OF TIME WITH THE TEEN TITANS, A BUNCH OF KID SIDEKICKS WHO DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TO DO WITH THEIR LIVES, EITHER."



"IT WAS ABOUT THAT TIME I DECIDED TO MAKE THE BIG CHANGE."



"A NEW NAME AND OUTFIT."



"ROBIN DIED AND FROM HIS ASHES ROSE NIGHTWING."

"I STARTED A NEW LIFE AS THE LEADER OF THE TEEN TITANS."



"THAT GROUP HELPED ME REGAIN MY SENSE OF SELF-WORTH."

"I BROKE THE BONDS OF DEPRESSION AND DROVE INTO MY NEW EXISTENCE WITH A RENEWED DETERMINATION."

"LEADING THE TITANS IS WHERE I BELONGS. I NEED THEM AS MUCH AS THEY NEED ME. IT FEELS GREAT."

AS A GROUP WE'VE
DONE PRETTY WELL
FOR OURSELVES.

I KNOW, I SAW YOUR GROUP
IN ACTION WHEN THEY TEAMED
UP WITH THE OUTSIDERS.
REMEMBER?

YEAH... WELL,
IT LOOKED LIKE
EVERYTHING WAS
GOING TO WORK
OUT OKAY.

"THEN ONE MORNING
DURING BREAKFAST,
MY WHOLE WORLD
CAME CRASHING
DOWN."

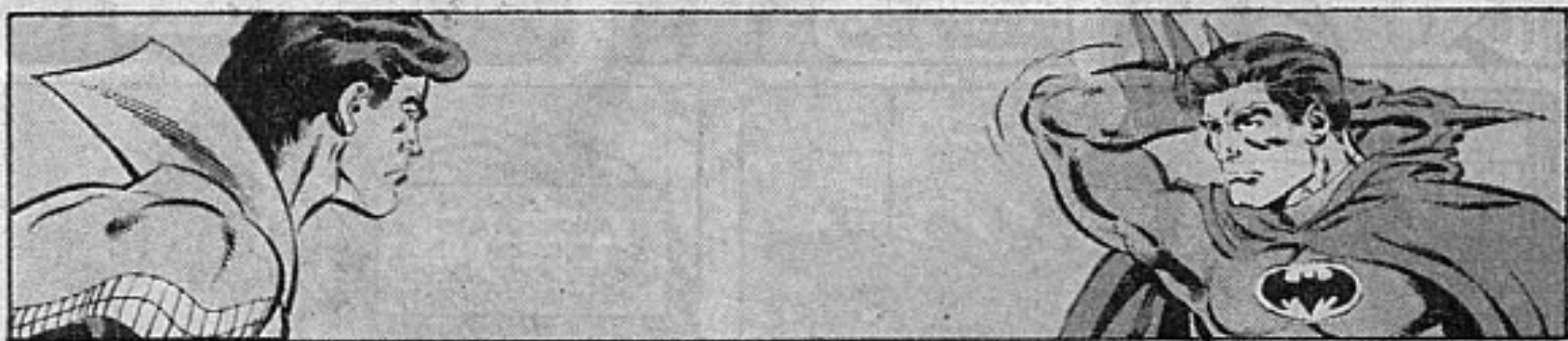
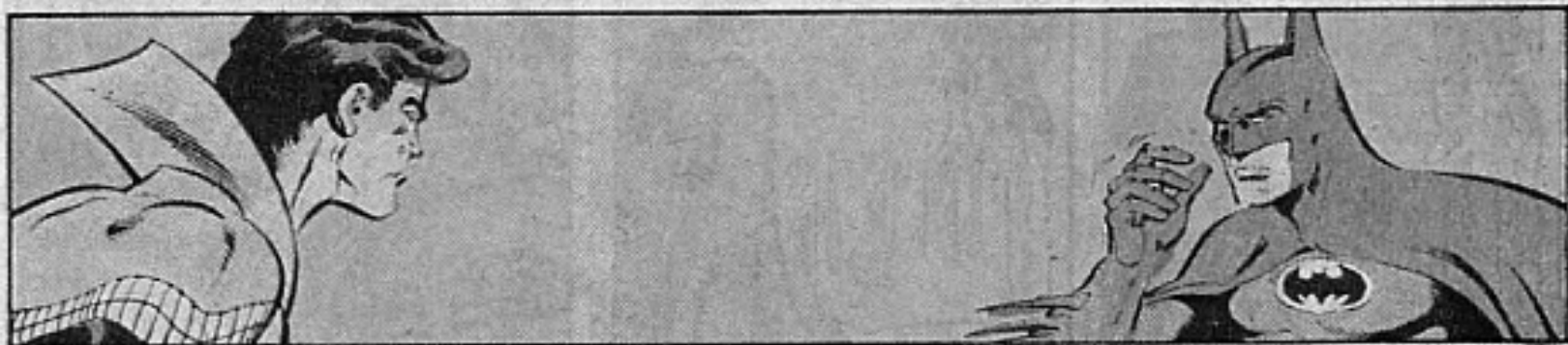
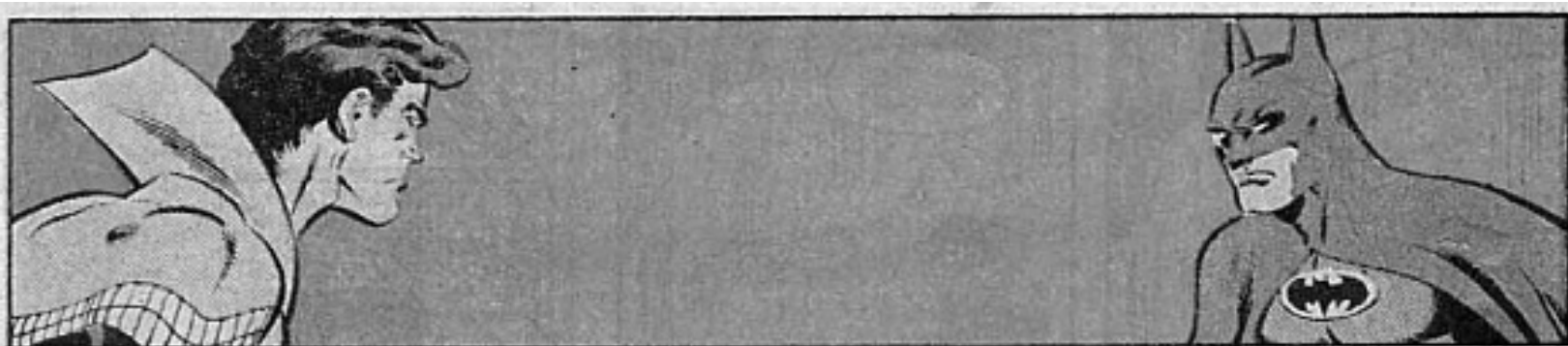
THE MAN WHO COULDN'T
HANDLE THE RESPONSIBILITY
OF HAVING A
19-YEAR OLD PARTNER
SUDDENLY DECIDES
IT'S ALL RIGHT TO
TAKE ON A SIDEKICK.

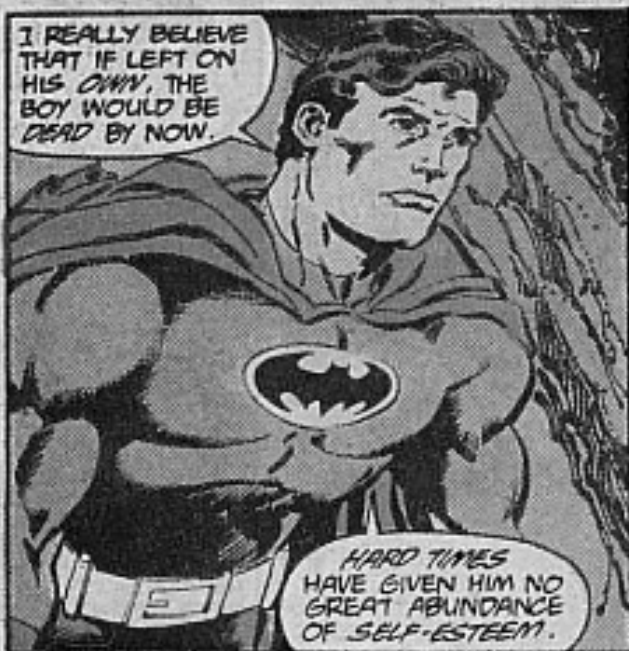
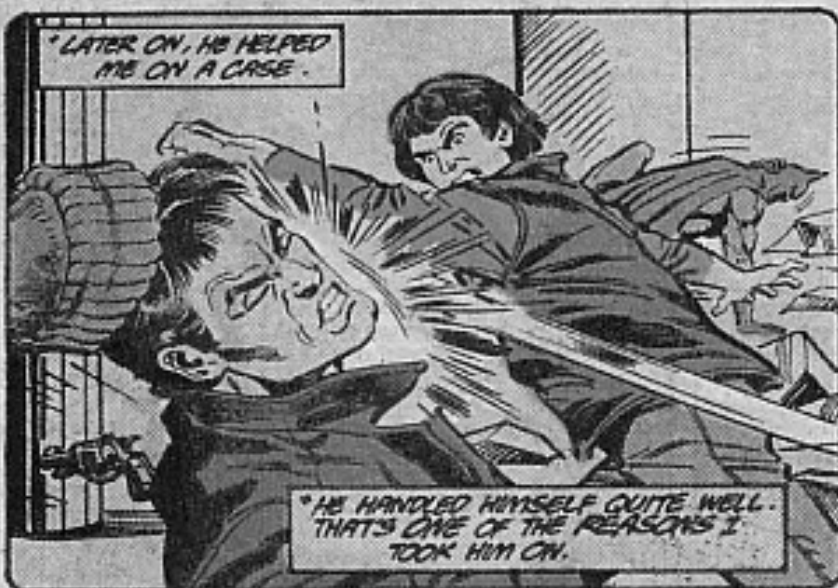
"IT WAS QUITE A KICK
FOR ME TO LEARN ABOUT
THE NEW ROBIN IN
THE NEWSPAPERS."

I THINK I HAVE THE
RIGHT TO KNOW
WHY.

THAT'S NOT AN
EASY QUESTION
TO ANSWER.

WELL, WHY DON'T
YOU TAKE OFF
THAT DAMN MASK
AND GIVE IT A TRY!









I ADMIT IT.

I WAS LONELY.

I MISSED YOU.



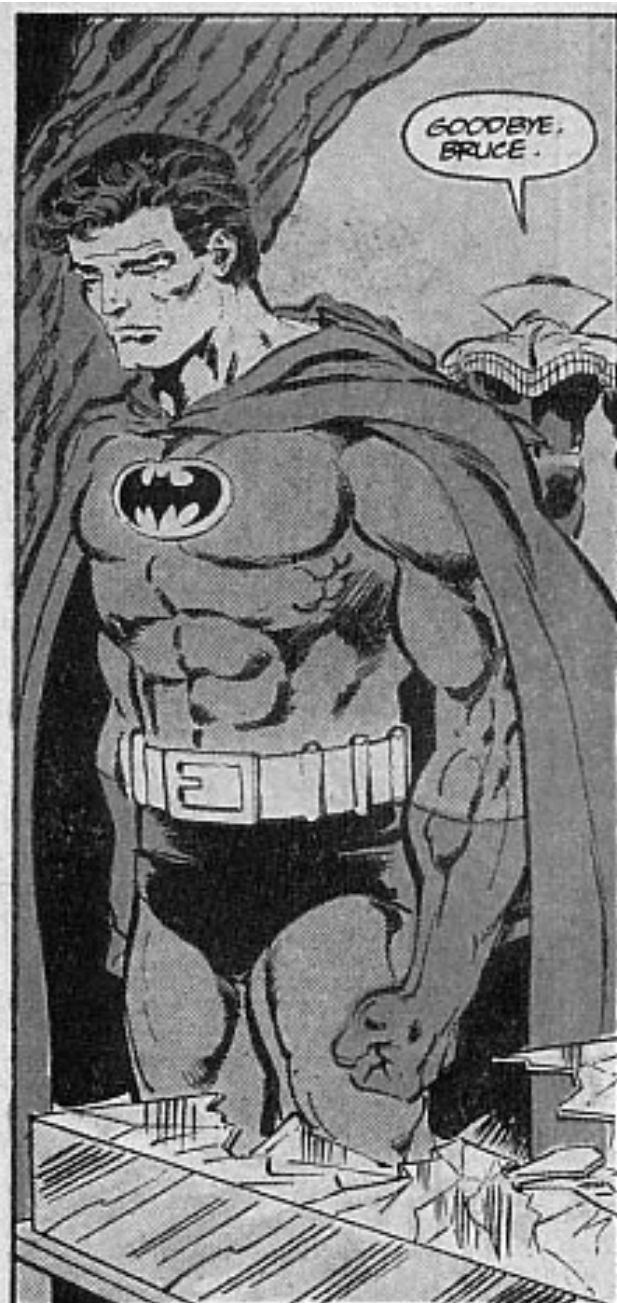
BRUCE, I'M...



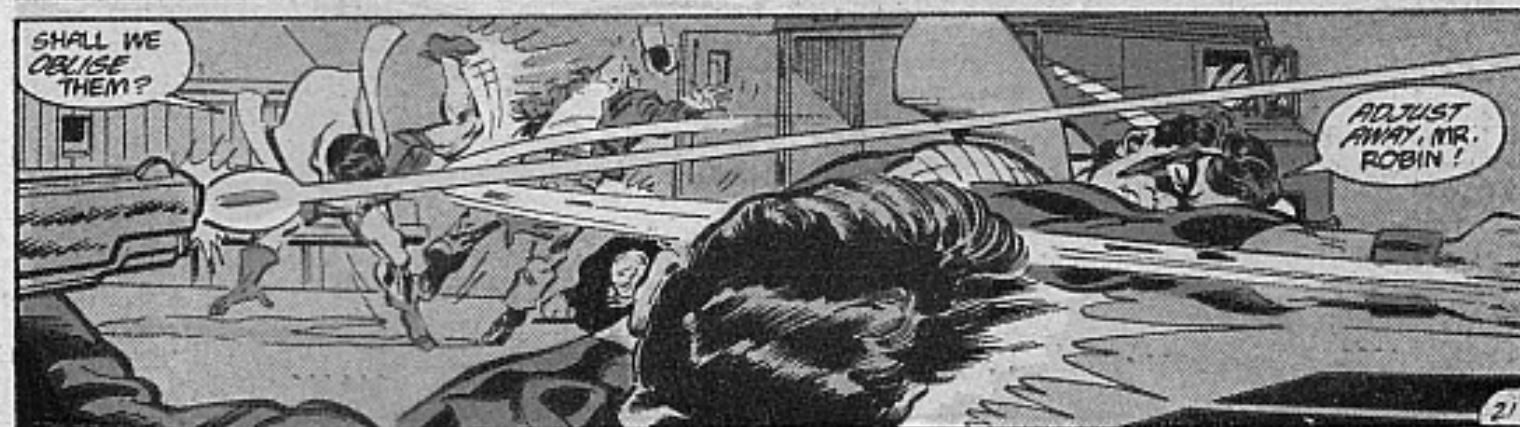
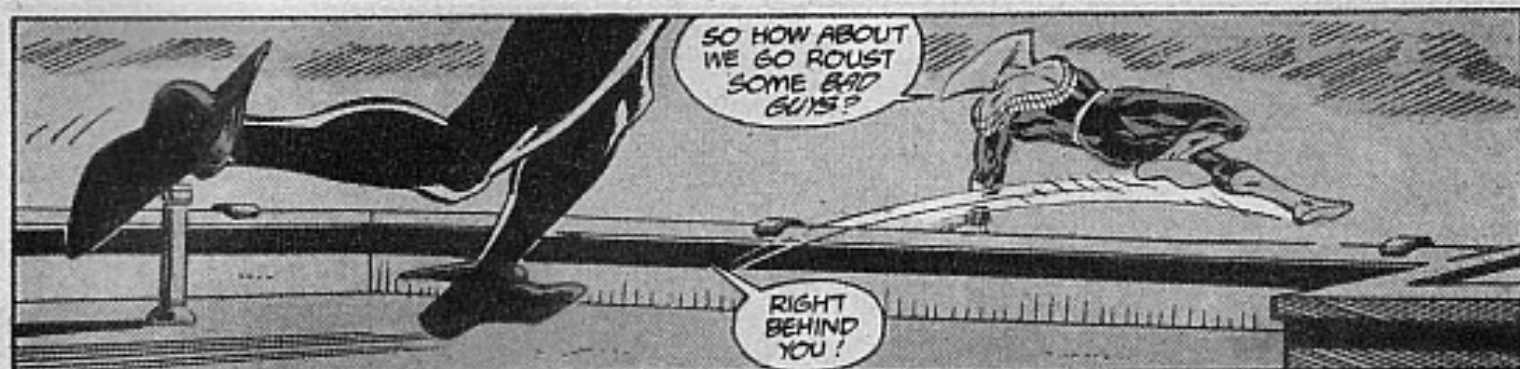
I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU LEFT NOW, NIGHTWING.

PLEASE, GET OUT.









120 SECONDS LATER.

NOT BAD
FOR A BEGINNER,
KID.

BUT YOU
COULD USE SOME
PRACTICE ON
THAT SIDEKICK.

DULY NOTED,
OLD-TIMER. I'LL
WORK ON IT.

THE TWO OF THEM ARE FLUSHED
WITH THE THRILL OF THEIR
WELL-EARNED VICTORY.

THEY DON'T
THINK TO
LOOK UP.

SO THEY DON'T
SEE ME.

BUT EVEN IF THEY DID,
THEY'RE TOO FAR AWAY
TO SEE MY SMILE.

THANKS,
DICK.

END